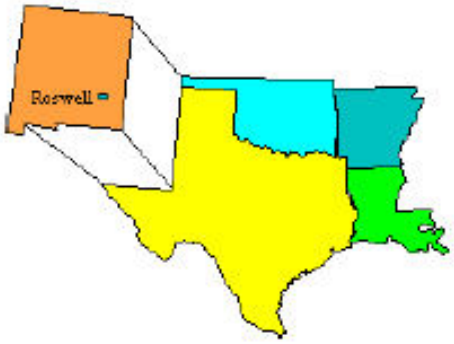
McGaffey & Main Ground Water Plume
Roswell, New Mexico
Chaves County



EPA Region 6
Congressional District 2

EPA ID# NM0000605386
Site ID: 0605386
Contact: Michael Torres 214-665-2108
Updated: August 2006

Current Status

- EPA has completed the Remedial Investigation (RI) portion of the project that started in early 2002 and is in the process of completing the RI/Feasibility Study. The report will be released to the public in the Fall of 2006.

- EPA would like to extend its sincere appreciation to all the residents, property owners, and business operators who were helpful and cooperative during the RI activities.

Benefits

- Remediation of the ground water will reduce the health and ecological risk associated with the contaminants by protecting the public water supply wells and private residential wells from impacts from the site contaminants.

National Priorities List (NPL) Site History

- NPL Inclusion Proposal Date: September 13, 2001
- NPL Inclusion Final Date: October 24, 2002
- NPL Deletion Proposal Date: n/a
- NPL Final Deletion Date: n/a

- The McGaffey and Main Ground Water Plume Site is located within the city limits of Roswell, Chaves County, in southeastern New Mexico.

- The contamination is primarily found in an alluvial aquifer underlying a mixed commercial and industrial section of the city of Roswell, about two miles south of the central business district. The site consists of perchoroethylene (PCE) contamination that has been identified as a ground water plume that may extend up to one mile in a southeasterly direction from the intersection of Main Street and McGaffey Street.

- The suspected source of the PCE is a series of defunct dry cleaning facilities, which operated from approximately 1956-1963. The precise extent of the plume has not yet been identified.

- The city of Roswell municipal supply system is composed of 20 municipal supply wells. The system serves a population of approximately 48,000 individuals. Approximately 9,600 individuals receive their drinking water from five City of Roswell municipal wells located within four miles of the site.

- The primary contaminant of concern is PCE, a chlorinated solvent, has been found at levels up to 25,000 micrograms per liter (µg/L) in the ground water. The Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), or Federal Drinking Water Standard, that is allowed under the Safe Drinking Water Act is 5 µg/L.

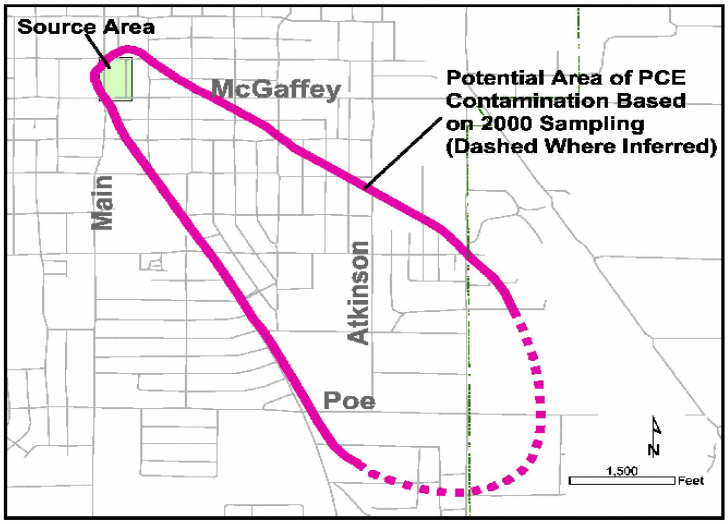
- Chlorinated solvents are heavier than water and readily sink in ground water. An exact or calculated volume of the chlorinated solvent (PCE) released into the ground water at the former site of several dry cleaners is unknown at this time. However, very small amounts of these chemicals can contaminate large volumes of soil and ground water.

- The primary media affected by PCE contamination is the ground water, although residual contamination is still found in the deep soils. Because the contamination is found only in the subsurface, it is safe for people to live, work, and visit the area in the immediate vicinity of the former dry-cleaning facilities.

- The 2001 City of Roswell Annual Drinking Water Quality Report states that the municipal drinking water meets or exceeds all federal and state requirements, which means that the city water is safe to drink. Recent site data also indicate that contamination from the McGaffey and Main Site is not affecting the City water supply, and will not do so in the near future.

SITE MAP

Site Map



Human Health and Ecological Considerations

- There is a potential for elevated health/ecological risk levels associated with chlorinated hydrocarbon compounds like PCE and some of the breakdown products of that compound. PCE is the leading concern at this site because it is a probable human carcinogen and because it has been found at concentrations that are above the drinking water standards in some wells.

- Thirteen of the 16 domestic ground water and irrigation wells downgradient of the site sampled in April through September 2000, contained PCE, some at concentrations higher than the Maximum Contamination Limit (MCL) of 5.0 µg/L. (These wells are not the sole source of water for these residences.)

- Three residences in the vicinity of the site whose sole source of water (including drinking) were found to be contaminated with PCE above the MCL were connected to the city of Roswell municipal water system in 1995.

- Since 1995, PCE has been detected intermittently in two municipal supply wells at concentrations ranging from 0.3 µg/L to 2.3 µg/L, which is below the MCL of 5 µg/L.

Record Of Decision

Record of Decision: Not Yet Available

Site Contacts

EPA Remedial Project Manager:	Michael Torres 214-665-2108 or 1-800-533-3508
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EPA RI/FS Contractor:	CH2MHill